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MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

PETITION OF THE PHYSICIANS OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY TO THE LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled.

THE undersigned, Physicians and Surgeons, resident in the County of Berkshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, respectfully represent to your Honorable Body that the present organization of the "Massachusetts Medical Society" is very defective. It fails to accomplish the objects of medical association. It is partial, unjust and oppressive in its operations. It is *defective*, in that while it professes as its object, to seek and promote the success and prosperity of the profession by embodying all the regular practitioners in the Commonwealth, its requisitions prevent a large proportion of the practitioners from connecting themselves with it, and, of course, located as we are, we are deprived of the great benefits of medical association among *ourselves*, and by an unavoidable expense and sacrifice, which amount to prohibition, we are prevented a participation in the benefits derived from attending the meetings of the Society in Boston.

It is *partial* in its operation, inasmuch as by its present organization but few are or can be benefited by connection with it. It is *unjust* and *oppressive* in its operations, as by its regulations it imposes equal *pecuniary burdens* upon *all*, while to a large proportion it furnishes no adequate equivalent. Its meetings, its funds and its library being held, located, and confined in Boston at the eastern extremity of the Commonwealth, it is and must be obvious to all, that that portion of the profession residing in the *opposite extremity* can derive little or no benefit from either. These burdens, oppressions and inconveniences we have borne and endured for a long series of years, and having in vain sought relief from other sources, we now humbly, yet confidently appeal to your Honorable Body, and pray *either* that the State Medical Society may be so re-organized, as that while it secures all the benefits of a *State Society*, the benefits of *medical association*, and a participation of the funds and library already accumulated, may be conferred upon and secured to County Medical Societies; or, if this petition cannot be granted, we ask that the County of Berkshire may be constituted a separate and distinct medical society, clothed with the usual powers and privileges pertaining to such bodies.

Boston, Nov. 24th, 1846.

REMONSTRANCE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY AGAINST THE FOREGOING PETITION.

The Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, through the undersigned, their committee, respectfully represent—

That the Massachusetts Medical Society was incorporated in 1781; since which time it has continued to flourish for two thirds of a century, until its members now amount to more than eight hundred, residing in all parts of the Commonwealth.

That the Society has at all times been eminently useful in promoting friendly intercourse and honorable conduct among the members of the profession, in upholding a proper standard of medical education, and in protecting the community from the encroachments of ignorant and incompetent practitioners.

That the laws and regulations of the Society have been framed with the utmost regard to an equalization of its burdens and benefits among all sections of the Commonwealth, as far as it has been possible so to do.

That the annual meetings of the Society have been always attended by a very large and respectable representation of the profession from all parts of the State, amounting last year to upwards of four hundred. That the great body of its members are believed to be contented with the regulations of the Society, and satisfied of its salutary influence. And that up to the present year, no successful attempt has been made to divide the Society, or to impair its usefulness.

The undersigned, in behalf of the Society, have learned with regret, that a petition has now been presented to the Legislature from Physicians of the County of Berkshire, setting forth certain alleged grievances, and praying, either "that the State Medical Society may be re-organized," or "that the County of Berkshire may be constituted a distinct medical society, clothed with the usual powers and privileges pertaining to such bodies." The undersigned are prepared to show that the alleged grievances do not exist, and that the prayer of the petitioners ought not to be granted.

The chief, if not the only allegations of the petitioners against the present organization of the Society, are that "its meetings, its funds and its library" are "held, located and confined in Boston, at the eastern extremity of the Commonwealth." The undersigned have always supposed that Boston is not at the eastern extremity of this Commonwealth, but that being near the centre of population and intercourse, it is quite as accessible from Berkshire, every day in the week, as it is from the counties of Barnstable and Nantucket. The meetings of the Society have been held in Boston by the will of its members, and may at any time be removed if a more suitable place shall be selected by the votes of a majority, for the purpose.

In regard to the funds of the Society, they consist in the first place of an assessment of three dollars from each member, which is appropriated to pay the rent of the Society's rooms, the expense of an annual dinner, provided chiefly for the accommodation of distant members, and to defray the cost of the Society's publications, including an annual octavo volume

which is delivered to every member who has paid his assessment. One third of the foregoing assessment is remitted to all the District Societies, viz., those in other counties than Suffolk, on their paying the remainder. To the County of Berkshire, in 1818, one half the assessment was given up for five years, and in 1840, the whole arrearage of that County, amounting to more than five hundred dollars, was cancelled by vote of the Counsellors. Including the books delivered to Berkshire physicians, it can be shown, that more property has been given by the parent Society to the County of Berkshire than the whole amount of assessments ever received by the Society from them.

A township of land was formerly given by the Legislature to the Massachusetts Medical Society, which they afterwards sold, and invested the proceeds as an accumulating fund, for the purpose of enabling them, at some future period, to erect a building for the Society's meetings. This fund now amounts to between nine and ten thousand dollars, invested in the Hospital Life Insurance Office. A motion is now pending before the Society, that the interest of this fund shall hereafter be used to defray the expense of a valuable Medical Journal to be gratuitously distributed among all its members.

The library of the Society, the disposition of which has been made a third source of complaint, is a small collection of old books, the result entirely of donations and legacies. It is but little used in Boston, and by a regulation of the Society, any District Society may carry off sixty volumes at a time for the use of its members. Of this privilege the County of Berkshire has freely availed itself.

For the last sixteen years, an octavo volume, of some standard work on medicine, has been annually published by the Society, for gratuitous distribution among its members. A set of these books now forms of itself a small but valuable library, which has become the private property of every member who has paid his assessments for the time. The County of Berkshire has received more than its share of these books in proportion to the assessments paid by its members.

The petitioners, in requesting of the Legislature "that the State Medical Society may be re-organized," have not stated the kind of re-organization which they desire. But in a printed document circulated by the Berkshire District Society last fall, among the physicians of the Commonwealth, they propose the plan now in operation in New York and Connecticut, by which the State Society is made up of delegates chosen by local societies in the various counties or districts. But they seem to have forgotten the fact that the affairs of the Massachusetts Medical Society are now wholly managed by a delegated body under the name of Counsellors, who are chosen from all parts of the State, in the proportion of one counsellor to every eight members. These counsellors, moreover, are selected by the District Societies where they reside, when such societies see fit to take the trouble, and they have a right to vote by proxy when they do not attend the meetings, and all other members of the Society have a like right to vote by proxy at the general meetings.

The undersigned are unable to imagine a plan more impartial, or more equal in its operation upon all parts of the Commonwealth.

The alternative proposed by the petitioners to the Legislature, is either to alter the organization of the Massachusetts Medical Society, or to set off the physicians of the County of Berkshire as a separate society "clothed with the usual powers and privileges pertaining to such bodies."

In regard to the first of these proposals, the petitioners should be aware, that the Legislature will not probably do any act to alienate the property of the Society, or to interfere with its corporate right to manage its own internal affairs, so long as its proceedings do not contravene the laws of this Commonwealth.

In regard to the second proposition, which is to incorporate the Berkshire physicians in a new society, the answer is plain. There can be no objection to the incorporation of any body of men or physicians, for any safe and praiseworthy purpose. But if by "the usual powers and privileges" of medical corporations, it is intended to include the power of conferring *licenses to practise physic*, this power becomes dangerous and liable to abuse. If such a power is granted to the physicians of Berkshire, there is no reason why the physicians of any other county in the Commonwealth may not claim the like privilege. And thus the State might be cut up into small and irresponsible tribunals, disposing of licenses for a pecuniary compensation, and not accounting to any higher authority for abuses which might result from the misuse of their privileges.

The Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society deprecate the overthrow of a system of medical intercourse, harmony, and useful coöperation, which has existed for so many years, which has been the result of the careful deliberations and united wisdom of the physicians of all interests, and all parts of the Commonwealth. And they hope that the more mature reflections of the respectable physicians of the County of Berkshire will induce them still to coöperate in a system which has given to the profession in Massachusetts an enviable distinction among those of other States.

JACOB BIGELOW,
ENOCH HALE,
GEO. HAYWARD,
} *Committee.*

Boston, February 18th, 1847.

CASE OF MALFORMATION.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

SEVERAL professional gentlemen visited, the other day, at the Bromfield House, in this city, the subject of a remarkable malformation, a short account of which may be acceptable to some of the readers of the Journal.

Mr. Benoni T. Bachelder, the individual in question, is a native of Meredith, N. H. He came into the world twenty-eight years ago, bringing with him only one perfect limb—the left arm—the others being abortive stumps, much like those left after amputation of the arm and thigh.

The right humerus is a foot or more in length. The deltoid and pectoral muscles are well developed; the biceps has a well-marked fleshy belly, but tapers rapidly, in common with the other muscles of the arm, towards the lower extremity, which is rounded off without anything like a cicatrix, and has a small wart-like excrescence upon one side near its termination. This, Mr. Bachelder says, made its appearance some years since, and was not a part of the original conformation. The humerus is felt to be somewhat flattened, so as to spread a little transversely at the lower end, as if there were an effort at the formation of condyles. All the movements of the shoulder-joint are perfect, and he can press the imperfect limb against the side so as to imprison a hand placed there, pretty firmly.

The femoral bones on the two sides are each about a third of the natural length, and the rudimentary limbs terminate like the right humerus in rounded stumps. The extremity of each of these stumps has a little mushroom-like appendix or fleshy pad attached to it; that on the right the largest, bearing a certain resemblance to a flattened and boneless great toe, and capable of slight voluntary motions. The left is smaller, and can be retracted by a voluntary effort of the muscles of the stump. The pelvis is said to be narrow, by one of the gentlemen who had an opportunity of inspecting its formation.

The left arm is exceedingly muscular, the forearm and hand very thick from before backwards, and the whole limb possessed of great strength. The muscles of the radial region are very strongly marked, and give a striking fulness to the front of the forearm. The hand, though very thick (as already mentioned), is of moderate size, very well formed, and can grasp with a force not to be doubted by those who have once felt it.

Mr. Bachelder enjoys good health, and is not subject to headaches, indigestion, constipation, or pulmonary difficulties of any kind. The organic functions appear, in fact, to go on vigorously. His color is florid, the flesh firm, the pilous system flourishing, the state of nutrition satisfactory. His weight is at present ninety-two pounds, but at the age of 23 was, as he says, one hundred and seventeen.

His voice is rather acute than deep, his temperament cheerful, and there is much propriety and affability in his intercourse with visiters. With the exception of the parts that have been described, all the other organs, not excepting those of reproduction, appear to be of proper form and proportion. Life has not been without its attractions for him, in spite of his physical misfortunes; luxuriant health and expansive sensibilities confer privileges from which he has not been debarred.

Limited as his means of locomotion appear, he is by no means condemned to inactivity. By alternate flexions and contractions of the muscles of the trunk, he can throw himself up an inch or two from the floor, or cross the room in a rapid series of hops or jumps. The single arm which he possesses is to him what the so-called *foot* is to some of the mollusca. It is his organ of prehension and locomotion—the handle by which he picks himself up, as if he were another man's bundle—the radius vector at the end of which he revolves—the servant of all work, who does the tasks of four for the wages of one. He throws himself from spot to spot in

great swinging arcs, bouncing down his pack of robust viscera upon the floor as if it was a tennis ball. He seats himself by placing his hand on the floor and lifting his trunk into a chair as if it were a portmanteau. With this same extremity he can write; by means of it he can, as he tells me, support himself in the water, though his movements therein are somewhat of the *volvox* order, and I have no doubt could defend himself from aggression with formidable energy.

No cause is assigned as having had an influence in producing the deformity with which he was born—a somewhat remarkable fact, as there is almost always a story connected with the uterine history of similar cases. He is one of a large family, all of whom are well formed.

Malformations similar to the one just described have been often observed both in man and the lower animals. The place they occupy in the classification of Geoffroy St. Hilaire is in the family of ECTROMELIANS (abortive-limbed), which is divided into three genera.

I. The *Phocomela*; in which the hands or feet only appear to exist, being implanted directly upon the trunk.

II. *Hemimela*; the upper or lower extremities very imperfect, terminating in the form of stumps; fingers wanting or very imperfect.

III. *Ectromela*; the upper or lower limbs wanting, or nearly so.

The case in question belongs, by the above definition, to the second genus—Hemimela (half-limbed); but the line of distinction between these genera is ill marked according to the great teratologist's own confession, and many of the cases mentioned under the head of ectromela had stumps and rudiments of fingers like the subject of this observation. Perhaps it would be correct to consider him as ranking with the hemimela so far as the left arm is concerned, and to belong by the formation of the lower extremities with the ectromela. These names are not a matter of mere curiosity or pedantry, for they furnish the key by which to get at the history of similar instances.

The case that comes nearest to the present is one which Geoffroy St. Hilaire mentions having himself examined. It was that of a young girl in whom the lower extremities were almost entirely wanting, the left arm being *hemimelic*, or half formed, while the right was of natural conformation. On the left side "the upper arm alone existed; its size was natural, and a humerus could be very distinctly felt beneath the integuments, terminated by two condyles of very perfect formation, though articulating with no other bone. The limb terminated in a hemispherical stump, having at its lower extremity a very small rounded lobule which seemed to be a rudimentary finger."

Ambrose Paré, Licetus and Schenkius, whose works I have the good fortune to possess, contain cases more or less similar to the above, but none which comes so near that which is the subject of this description. Here is one from Paré, with a portrait which looks as if it might be a likeness.

"In the year 1573 I saw at Paris, at the gate of St. André des Arts, a child, 9 years old, a native of Parpeuille, a village about three leagues

from Guise: his father's name was Peter Renard, and his mother, who carried him about, was called Marquette. This monster had only two fingers on the right hand, and the arm was well enough formed from the shoulder to the elbow, but from the elbow to the two fingers was very much misshapen. He had no legs, but out of his right thigh there proceeded an imperfect sort of foot, with something that looked like four toes; out of the middle of the left thigh came two toes, one of which had a near resemblance to the *membrum virile*." Here is an approach to the condition of Mr. Bachelder; the same three extremities were still more greatly malformed in his case. It is probably very uncommon to meet with so near an approach to the complete absence of these three limbs. Geoffroy St. Hilaire says that "the cases where the absence of one upper extremity coincides with that of one or both of the lower, and especially those where one lower and both upper limbs are wanting, are met with very rarely; in fact their occurrence in the human subject is hardly made certain." It is much less uncommon to find all four of the extremities wanting. The author just cited refers to various instances, and Schenck, whose immense and precious collection includes almost everything wonderful, quotes from Peucerus, who quotes from "Roman History" the statement that in Picenum children used to be born without hands or feet.

The most interesting points in this case are the existence of what may be called rudimentary toes, the general vigor of the nutritive system, in accordance with what is usually observed in similar cases, the apparent integrity of the reproductive organs and faculties in contradiction to what Geoffroy St. Hilaire states to be the rule in malformations of this kind, and especially the wonderful manner in which a single organ has been educated and strengthened for the new and varied duties which have devolved upon it.

The many difficult acts which persons born without arms have learned to perform with their feet, are familiar to all; within a few years we have had a remarkable illustration of this fact before our own eyes, in the person of Mr. Nellis. A large historical painting of great merit, was executed not long ago, in Paris, by an artist who had no arms, and made use of his lower limbs, which were malformed, in painting. As it is less common to see the rudimentary upper extremities made serviceable, and as old Paré tells his stories with such simplicity, I must give a literal version of one of them, only wishing I could transfer the portrait with its expressive accompaniments.

"A little while ago we had at Paris a man without arms, aged 40 years or thereabouts, who could do everything that other people do by means of their hands; for instance, with the stump of his shoulder and his head he could drive a wedge into a block of wood as hard as another man could have done with his arms. So he could crack a cartwhip, and do many similar things; and with his feet he ate, drank, and played at cards and dice, as you see in this portrait; and at last he became a thief, and a robber, and a murderer, and was executed at Gueldres, to wit, hanged, and passed under the wheel."

The unfortunates whom the French call *cul de jattes*—those who have arms, but no lower extremities, are frequently seen using their only members successfully as organs of locomotion. But here is a human being whom nature has cut down to the level of some of her humblest organisms, in giving him but one solitary organ of active muscular relation with the world about him. Yet, as if conscious of injustice, she has clothed that one limb with strength and beauty, and training it by the lessons of hard necessity, has gifted it with powers which, perhaps, no other human arm possesses in such perfection. The great principle of compensation, coextensive with our wants, privations and sufferings,—the strongest argument perhaps that natural religion can appeal to in proof of the existence of a benevolent Creator,—finds here a striking illustration. The same Power that faced the incisors of the rodentia with their thick enamel, that cushioned the foot of the dromedary, that pours the solidifying juices about the ends of a broken bone, and thickens the cuticle when toil is pressing it too rudely; that scattered the seeds of the poppy, which feeds the gnawings of pain, among the cornfields that supply the great anodyne of hunger, reaches to the remotest anomalies that abridge the enjoyments or multiply the sufferings of any sentient creature. We cannot but hope that while a natural curiosity prompts many to visit this singular instance of nature's forgetfulness, they will learn to prize their own unheeded faculties more highly, and remember that the world owes something to a man who has no legs to carry him through it, and but one hand to stretch out to others for assistance.

Boston, February, 1847.

USE OF THE LETHEON IN LONDON.

[As intimated in the Journal last week, the ethereal inhalation seems destined, notwithstanding the jealousy of some and the doubts of many at home, to a general favor and use abroad. The following is some of the information on this point received by the last arrivals from England.]

Middlesex Hospital.—On Monday last, at the Middlesex Hospital, the efficacy of the ether was put to as severe a test as it has yet been subjected to. A man of 68 had been admitted with symptoms of stone and diseased bladder; so much pain, straining and struggling attended the attempts at sounding, that it was with difficulty satisfactorily accomplished. The vesical tenesmus was incessant, amounting to total incontinence of urine. Endeavors were made for several weeks to allay this extreme irritability, so that some urine might be retained or some water received as an injection, but in vain, neither could be endured; lithotrity was consequently out of the question; and Mr. Arnott determined to perform the operation of lithotomy, unpromising as the case was, but, if possible, whilst the patient was under the influence of the ether. In seven minutes from the commencement, but in reality only two from the effectual inhalation, its influence was obtained. The catheter was then introduced, and some water attempted to be injected, but not above two

or three ounces could be borne, and this, retained by pressure, was ejected immediately on the introduction of the staff, which, owing to the state of parts, was effected with some difficulty and consequent delay; the bladder was cut into; the stone was grasped at once, but crumbled under the forceps, requiring their re-introduction several times; the scoop was employed to remove calculous matter like mortar; and, lastly, the bladder was injected four or five times, so as to wash it out. During the whole time, from first to last, the patient gave not the slightest indication of suffering; indeed, it was not until he was removed to bed and had been some time in it, and taken some brandy and ammonia, that he did so, and then of soreness merely. Nor was the influence of the ether limited to this, its anodyne effect was maintained during the evening, the man remaining in a dreamy and "very comfortable state," as he termed it. He declared that he suffered no pain; he knew that something was being done, but he recollects nothing distinctly "after blowing the horn." Up to this time, Wednesday evening, he is going on very favorably. Without the ether the pain in this case must have been most severe, and, from the circumstances mentioned, of more than ordinary duration, but happily the patient was spared it all. The apparatus employed was one invented by Mr. Bell, chemist, of Oxford street, who was present, and assisted Mr. Tomes in its application.—*Med. Gazette.*

THE CÆSAREAN OPERATION.—The subject of this case, a dressmaker, æt. 27, of a mild disposition, is only four feet one inch in height, on account of great distortion of the pelvis and lower limbs from rickets during childhood. Her general health is good. On the evening of the 7th of April, 1846, while under temporary excitement, she had connection once with a young man lodging in the same house. She was not aware of being pregnant until the seventh month, when she consulted a surgeon, who, conscious of her dangerous position, sent her to Mr. Skey, under whose care she was admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital. An accurate examination was then made by several distinguished accoucheurs, who were unanimous in their opinion that embryotomy would be impracticable on account of the extreme narrowness of the antero-posterior diameter of the pelvis. It was, therefore, recommended no operative proceeding should be adopted until the full period of utero-gestation; and that the Cæsarean section would then be the most proper measure. The nature of the case being fairly and fully explained to the patient, she readily consented to undergo any operation which offered the best chance of relief. At 2 o'clock in the morning of the 25th of January, she was awakened from sleep by the commencement of labor. The membranes gave way soon afterwards, and the pains increased. Mr. Skey, with several accoucheurs, made an examination, *per vaginam*, at half past 4, A. M. The os uteri was at that time very little dilated. A second examination was made at half past 7 o'clock. The os uteri was still in the same condition, but the labor pains were rapidly increasing. The operation was, therefore, no longer delayed. The vapor of ether was inhaled by the patient for six minutes before its effects were manifest; an incision eight inches in length was made down to the linea alba, com-

mencing two inches above the umbilicus, and terminating two inches and a half above the pubes. The linea alba was then divided to the same extent on a broad director. The uterus was fairly exposed, inclining to the left. Adequate pressure over the front and sides of the abdomen was necessary to prevent protrusion of the intestines. An incision from five to six inches in length was then made into the long axis of the uterus, from which a well-formed, healthy-looking female child was easily removed. The placenta was extracted shortly afterwards. Thus far the operation occupied six minutes. Immediate contraction of the uterus to one half its previous size followed the removal of the child. The free venous hæmorrhage which took place from its cut surface was arrested by cold water and pressure between the hands. In half an hour the uterus had contracted to such a size as to render its replacement within the abdomen safe. Accordingly, with the sanction of Drs. Rigby, Fergusson, Moore, P. Smith, and others, the incision in the abdomen was brought together by eleven sutures. Broad strips of plaster were applied to support the muscles, and cotton wool placed on the abdomen with a flannel roller over the whole. It may be as well to observe that the inhalation of the ether produced insensibility to the pain of the first incision. Its prolonged exhibition was not allowed, lest it might possibly interfere with the contraction of the uterus.—*Medical Gazette.*

ETHER APPLIED TO VETERINARY SCIENCE.—The vapor of sulphuric ether has, we hear, been employed at the Royal Veterinary College, Camden-town, on a sheep and a horse, with the most decided success. The first-named animal was affected, and had been for many months, with an incurable disease of the hock-joint. The pain was so severe that the poor sheep was quite unable to put her foot to the ground without experiencing much suffering. On being brought into the theatre she was caused to inhale the vapor of ether through a tube, and in about five minutes after it was evident she was under its influence. The leg was then amputated by Mr. Simonds at the thigh, without the slightest indication of any pain whatever. The operation occupied about six minutes, and within twenty minutes from the commencement the animal was removed from the theatre restored to sensation and consciousness. The horse was laboring under a chronic affection of the near fore-foot, commonly known by the name of the "naricular disease," for which the operation of "unnerving" is generally resorted to as a remedy. This is necessarily a very painful operation, and oftentimes the operator has to contend against the violent struggles of the animal, particularly at the instant when the division of the nerve is effected. In this case the ether vapor was inhaled for about thirteen minutes, when the horse fell forwards, and the nerve on each side the leg was divided by Mr. Spooner without the least manifestation of pain; a slight convulsive action of the limb, similar to that which takes place when a nerve of a recently-killed animal is cut through, alone giving indication of any sensation. Within twenty-three minutes this animal also had perfectly recovered from the effects of the ether. No restraint whatever was resorted to, to keep the animals in the required position for these operations, and the inhaler employed was

not one invented for the purpose, but an apparatus temporarily adjusted by Mr. Morton until a more perfect one was obtained.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, JANUARY 13TH, 1847.—The lecture room of the Society was crowded this evening with members of the Society and medical men, to hear a paper on Mr. Squire's instrument for the inhalation of the vapor of ether, and to see and to hear descriptions of other instruments for the same purpose.

Mr. Squire observed, this is now the all-engrossing subject, and public attention is daily called to the several operations which have been performed without the accompaniment of severe pain, heretofore experienced: some failures are also recorded, without stating the particulars as to their cause. In constructing the apparatus, I have taken into the account the weight of the vapor of ether, and have placed the tube near the bottom part; considering, also, that its stimulating effects on the air-passages causes coughing, I have regulated the supply of air to dilute it at the commencement of inhalation, with means to increase its strength until the patient is able to bear its full force. To secure a full supply, I have filled the upper vessel with sponge, and have also a collar of sponge around its descending tube at the bottom of the lower vessel, which imbibes any liquid ether in excess, and also serves further to impregnate the air in its passage to the tube for inhalation. The apparatus is supplied with ether at the top by a funnel, and falls in a shower on the sponge; a valve is placed in this part to admit air, and closes to prevent the escape of ether. In the other parts, Reed's patent valves (for the improvement of which he has recently taken out a patent) are, by his permission, used in this apparatus, and I trust that it may serve the very useful purpose, that its original was so successful in.

After Mr. Squire had exhibited and explained his instrument, Mr. Hooper gave an account of his apparatus, or rather, of improvements which he had made in the instrument, suggested by Dr. Boott and Mr. Robinson, and which had received their sanction. It would be unprofitable to follow the various remaining describers of instruments which were exhibited, many of which had not been tested in practice; they were really so numerous, that it would appear that the whole scientific portion of the members of the Society, as well as that of many others, had been employed in inventing and contriving means for administering the vapor of ether. The modifications attempted were from the most elaborate and complicated pieces of machinery, to mere bladders with an elastic tube and stop-cock, the latter having the advantage of not being protected by either "caveats" or "patents."

The object of the exhibition, at least, was answered, for each had an opportunity of exhibiting "his adopted," and, like a fond parent, saw advantages in his own offspring which he failed to find in that of others.

We may fairly sum up the results of the evening's "exhibition," in observing, with the President, that each form of apparatus exhibited had appeared to answer the purpose for which it was intended; that the simplest apparatus, if effective, must eventually be the most useful, and that time and experience only could demonstrate, amongst the many com-

petitors, which form of instrument was the most likely to be generally useful.—*London Lancet.*

[The four Nos. of the London Lancet for January abound with cases and remarks connected with the ether—one of the general heads of that work now being "Operations without Pain." The experiments were performed in most of the Hospitals, and were generally successful, the failure in a few unsuccessful cases being traced to some defect in the apparatus, and in a few to peculiarity of temperament. No injurious after-consequences seem to have been noticed. One trial in a medical case (that of tetanus) was made by Dr. Ranking, but the ether was useless, the spasms being even augmented thereby. Dr. Boott publishes a letter from one of the Queen's counsel, who contends that the patent for the use of the letheon cannot be supported, however it may be with the instrument furnished by the agent. The same view is taken by a legal correspondent of the Lancet. To this Mr. Dorr, the agent, replies, that no counsel can safely give an opinion of the matter until he has seen the specification of the patentees, which has not yet been made public. One of the most amusing things connected with the matter, is the claim by Dr. Robert H. Collyer, now in England, of being the discoverer of the process, inasmuch as in a work published in Boston, in 1843, he distinctly declared, "*a congestive* or unconscious state may be induced by the inhalation of narcotic or stimulating vapors." Mr. Wakley, the editor of the Lancet, is unbounded in his exaltations of the discoverers of the letheon, but repudiates the patent. The following brief extracts from his article on the subject will show its spirit.]

"Some hundreds of operations without pain have been performed in America. Capital and minor surgical operations have also been performed in this country, at University College Hospital, King's College Hospital, Guy's Hospital, St. George's Hospital, the Westminster Hospital, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, Richmond Hospital, Dublin, the Bristol General Hospital, Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and by many individuals in private practice, and the operations are increasing in number daily, so that there can be no reasonable doubt of the reality of the new mode of producing temporary insensibility to pain. Medical men have always been seeking for this priceless treasure to surgery—the greatest members of our profession, in ancient and modern times, have sought, and hitherto sought in vain, for any practicable and safe method of conquering the horrors of the operating-room. Up to this time there were no means of alleviation, except the administration of narcotics and intoxicating drinks, the compression of the nerves, celerity in operating, and the division of the nerves at the first stroke of the knife. It at once stands confessed, that the inhalation of sulphuric ether vapor for a few minutes, which is found to produce a transient but total suspension of sensation, without any ill results, is vastly superior to all measures previously devised for this purpose."

"The discovery of Dr. Morton, the hitherto unknown dentist of Boston—more striking to the general than to the scientific mind—will, undoubtedly, be placed high among the blessings of human knowledge and

discovery. Sulphuric ether has long been used as an anti-hysterical remedy of ordinary power; the inhalation of the weak vapor of ether was known as a toy, and sometimes used by chemical youths for mere frolic; and it was known, also, in a concentrated state, as one of the narcotic poisons. By a new and happy application and generalization, this drug, or toy, or poison, has been invested with fresh powers, which almost realize the fabled Lethe. From being one of the playthings of knowledge, it has been metamorphosed to one of its greatest triumphs; it has been, at one leap, transferred from the pages of toxicology to the latest, and almost the fairest, page of the healing art. That its discoverer should be an American is a high honor to our Transatlantic brethren; next to the discovery of Franklin, it is the second and greatest contribution of the New World to science, and it is the first great addition to the medical art."

"A patent has been taken out for the discovery, the American patent standing in the names of Dr. C. T. Jackson, of Boston, one of the most celebrated physicians in the United States, and Dr. Morton, the discoverer. This question of patent is a stain upon the whole matter. We trust it will speedily be relinquished; and we are assured, that for the patentees to attempt to maintain it by law would be most preposterous, and impossible. If it should realize all the present anticipations of temperate and calm-judging men, the thing is far too noble to be clogged with a mere commercial transaction. Not that Dr. Morton should pass unrewarded; he deserves, if his discovery stand the test of time, the gratitude and reward of every civilized people and government upon the face of the earth: he will have, we should hope, too strong a claim on their spontaneous gratitude, to need to resort to compulsory reward. How much more imperative would his claim be than the demands of those who have merely invented some new engine of destruction!"

MERCURY AS A REMEDY.

By J. B. Harrison. Esq., Eng.

Next to bloodletting, mercury perhaps stands in the estimation of British practitioners. Few medicines have been so largely employed, so greatly valued, and so much deprecated, as mercury. In this country, at least, it enters largely into our prescriptions, and is considered by the majority of practitioners as one of our most valuable and efficacious medicines. Mercury, according to its administration or mode of preparation, is used with various objects. In many instances, the action of mercury as a purgative seems to be more effectual than that of any other medicine. Whether, in such cases, it have any specific effect on the biliary secretion I cannot say; but certainly much good arises from its use. The combination of calomel with colocynth, or a few grains of calomel, followed by a black draught, are eminently useful in many nameless states of indisposition—probably more useful than any other cathartic. Again, mercury

is extensively employed in the treatment of inflammation; and after bloodletting and the adoption of other measures designed to relieve the early and more acute symptoms, it is considered as chiefly to be relied on. I believe this opinion to be deserving of credit; but I imagine the confidence commonly placed in it much exceeds what it really deserves. In the majority of cases in which mercurials are pushed with a view to arrest morbid action, or to restore parts which have suffered lesion, it is impossible to say what may be the true amount of relief afforded; and it should never be forgotten that most of the effects attributed to medicine in this, as in many other cases, would probably have been brought about by the unaided operation of natural causes. Of mercury as an anti-syphilitic, there is great difference of opinion. Large treatises and numerous volumes have been dedicated to the discussion, and it may appear presumptuous here to attempt to decide a controversy which has been so long and warmly carried on. Yet every practitioner must, in point of fact, decide this question for himself, so that an individual cannot be wrong in expressing his own convictions on the subject. For my own part I have seen nothing to give me that undoubted confidence in mercury which it was formerly common to repose in it. The bad cases of syphilis which I *have* seen have been cases in which mercury was or had been employed; some of them, I think, have been greatly aggravated by it. When the disease has been early discovered, I have generally treated it without mercury, and have had no reason afterwards to regret that I have not had recourse to it. In most of the chronic cases, I have met with, mercury had been given previously, or I was induced to make use of it, being unwilling that the patient should not have immediately the benefit of a line of treatment in which it is common to confide. Respecting the reputed *alterative* effects of mercury I cannot say much. The word alterative is, undoubtedly, a very flattering one to the patient; but it should be remembered that it is only a name. When a person has suffered for years from an obstinate complaint, and is fairly worn out by watching and unrest, it is evidently pleasant to him to imagine that he is taking an *alterative*, to *alter*, as he presumes, the condition of his system. But the case is far from appearing of so promising an aspect if the term *poison* be substituted, which is often quite as appropriate. Perhaps the patient may be taking minute doses of the bichloride of mercury; and if the practitioner were candidly to confess, he would be as much astonished as the patient would be pleased, if a cure were really accomplished ascribable fairly to the medicine employed. But what, then, does the practitioner expect? Why, if the truth must be spoken, he anticipates nothing whatever, and if any effect do happen to manifest itself, he is in great haste to withdraw the remedy. I grant that in some cases of chronic enlargements, as those of the testicle or mamma, the exhibition of small doses of mercury may be greatly beneficial, even curative; but here its influence is directed to the arrest of inflammatory action, or, more properly, to the removal of its consequences.—*London Lancet.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MARUH 3, 1847.

Ship Sickness.—Scarcely an emigrant vessel arrives from Europe, the passengers of which have not suffered more or less from sickness. It is extremely difficult to define the character of the disease that prevails. Although it is ordinarily called ship fever, which is something that is supposed to be well understood, yet very little is accurately known of it. It is impossible to pack one or two hundred men, women and children in the hold of a vessel, where they are obliged to remain from four to nine weeks, without deranging the vital machinery. The atmosphere alone, in its altered condition, soon becomes a prolific source of disease. Filth accumulates with astonishing rapidity, in spite of cabin mandates—and, strange as it may appear, steerage passengers, more especially the Irish, seem not to make the least effort to rid themselves of perpetual sources of nuisance, however offensive the odor. They huddle together in groups on a wet floor, and sleep in their wet or damp clothes, and never, unless obliged by the fear of losing some privilege, make much exertion to be comfortable. In connection with these evils, are the rolling of the ship, sea-sickness, bad water, poor provision (and not enough even of that), in the endurance of which, if the passengers were not sick, the wonder would be far greater. A few on board every emigrant vessel resist the combined influences of fœtid odors, miserable accommodations, rags, vermin, and all the wretchedness of extreme poverty, and appear not to suffer therefrom; but the sacrifice of life to these causes is a melancholy proof of the extremely bad management on board of such vessels. There is no perceptible modification of the system, and hence the history of one ship's sufferings is the prototype of all. When government forbids any vessel to carry more than two passengers, with suitable provisions and water, for every ten tons—instead of two for every five, as the law of this country now permits—there will be no unnecessary sacrifice of life to commercial avarice. Ship fever is induced from these causes, and invariably subsides by removing the patients into pure air, and giving them appropriate food. Where the prostration has been carried too far, and delirium exists, hardly a prospect of recovery remains. Very learned dissertations have appeared on this subject, and such an exact course of medication prescribed, that nothing remains to be done on that score, but to remark, by way of appendix, that medicine appears to be of no value when provisions are failing, and accommodations such as they usually are in an emigrant ship. We feel a degree of confidence in saying this, because it is based not only on common sense, but on years of experience and watchful observation into the actual condition of that class of vessels when they arrive in American ports. Were the same sanitary precautions introduced, that are vigilantly instituted and enforced in men-of-war ships, the same excellent standard of health would follow. Ventilation is sadly overlooked, if not utterly neglected, in emigrant vessels. It is true that the hatches are open; and it is also certain that the rain pours through them, and sea-water, too, in unwelcome volume, dashes in occasionally; but there

is nothing like a determination to keep the hold perfectly dry and thoroughly ventilated. Mr. Frederick Emerson's recently-invented apparatus, the most ingenious and philosophical yet devised, would obviate much of the evil of bad ventilation. Let it be once introduced into these vessels, and one of the most active agents in the production of ship fever would be overcome. Till some such means are used, by which a free circulation of pure atmospheric air may constantly exist through the entire hull, from stem to stern, life will continue to be sacrificed, and fearful exhibitions of disease still cling to the emigrant ship.

Velpeau's new Elements of Operative Surgery.—Dr. P. S. Townsend, of New York, has completed his translation of the third great volume of this very elaborate work, which is accompanied by a quarto atlas, of 22 lithographic plates, representing the principal operative processes, and the instruments used by the best surgeons in the world. Thus this work—comprising three very large and truly massive octavos, the last of which contains 1162 pages—is finished, and it now remains for the profession to show that the enterprise meets their approval, by placing the set in their libraries. We remember that some severe remarks were made upon this undertaking, on account of the alleged freedom with which the translator called up the name of Dr. Mott. An apology is to be found for Dr. Townsend, if such was the fact—a point about which men might disagree—from the circumstance, that he was Dr. M.'s pupil, and was under peculiar obligations to that eminent surgeon. But it is not at all necessary to regard the observations of those who overlook the real merits of the book, in their willingness to show up its defects. There is an immense amount of surgical information embodied in this colossean production of Velpeau, whose authority is not to be questioned, however abrupt or offensive he may have shown himself to foreign strangers. It is said that this distinguished operator has a haughty, forbidding air, poorly calculated to win the personal esteem of those who freely acknowledge his high claims to the rank assigned him by his own countrymen; yet no one would presume to maintain the absurd proposition, that therefore Velpeau was but a common surgeon. The published opinions of a man are the true exhibition of his attainments, in whatever department of life he is found. Here is a splendid accumulation of experience, and evidence of great industry in the labor of bringing it into an orderly bibliographical shape. May Dr. Townsend receive a reward for the service he has rendered, commensurate with his deserts as a faithful translator, annotator and author. The work may be had in Boston at Ticknor & Co.'s.

Dr. Buchanan's Introductory Lecture.—On some former occasion, the existence of the new institution, called the Eclectic Medical Institute, at Cincinnati, was noticed in the Journal. The class appears to have been so charmed with two recent introductory discourses, that copies were requested for publication, which could not well be denied, when such an admirable opportunity opened for distributing the new school doctrines. The first in order was delivered by the *soi-disant* discoverer of neurology, alias animal magnetism, alias mesmerism. Give it what name we may, it invariably comes up the same old sixpence, upon which the author holds on like a wrecked mariner to a floating spar. After quoting the opinion of Dr. Elliot-

son, of London, of mesmeric notoriety, and saying something of his own in favor of Hahnemann, the offensive odor of neurology leaks out at the cracks, although the doctor evidently endeavors to keep it as snugly out of the reach of the senses as possible. The lecturer exclaims, in an ecstacy of thought, "The value of neurology, as a complete and beautiful system of anthropology, as a great extension of our physiological knowledge, and as a philosophical development of the moving power of life," &c.

But it would be useless to pursue the thread of his reasonings, because it all terminates in that never-ending topic upon which his mind appears to have been addled for some years. Yet there is no more upright man living, nor one of whose moral purity of character and disposition to ameliorate the condition of humanity we have a higher opinion, than this same indomitable lecturer on the shadow of a shadow. Were his acknowledged powers of analysis concentrated upon some important pursuit, he would undoubtedly occupy a far more elevated position, and be more useful to others, than it is possible while wasting his philosophical strength on a phantom.

Dr. Jones's Introductory.—Associated with the foregoing—being stitched in the same cover—is the first lecture of the Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Botany. The Eclectic Medical Institute is fortunate in having secured the services of a person who thinks appropriately, and in accordance with that system of philosophy which addresses itself to the understanding. He presents no hobby, advocates nothing reprehensible even in theory, and on the whole reasons, or rather enforces his views, in a manner so cogent, with regard to quackery, that the reader would hardly suspect Dr. Jones belonged to the latest school of pseudo-medical reformers in this free country. Towards the closing pages there is a slight disposition shown to make it appear that there is a kind of parallelism between the Eclectic Institute, or some of its faculty, and Harvey and Jenner. But this is a weakness altogether pardonable in new beginners. There is no little satisfaction in believing one's self persecuted for righteousness sake, especially if there is a good chance for showing fight. Nothing advances even a bad cause, like opposition, and in the various schemes of our day for darning and patching up poor over-dosed humanity, the cures by means of new theories, new drugs and new hands, are wonderful in proportion to the strife and uproar attending their introduction. Dr. Jones evidently possesses talents of no mean order. Should he continue in his present connection, the fact should be classed among modern miracles. His mind is already in advance of his compeers, if this lecture is a correct indication of intellectual activity, which, as well as an earnest conscientiousness, characterizes this whole performance.

The Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane.—The Report, for the year 1846, of this institution, located in the city of Philadelphia, by its physician, Dr. Kirkbride, has been received. In addition to the introduction of a regular course of scientific lectures for the inmates, which was made last year, Dr. K. has this year commenced the employment of a lady to act as teacher and companion to the patients—who is to give her whole time not so much to the care and supervision of the patients, as to kindly endeavors to rid them of their delusions, to instruct those who are ignorant, and to be

a companion to all. The following quotation is made from Dr. Kirkbride's report:

"Up to the date of the last Report this Hospital had had under its care 769 patients: of these 313 had been discharged perfectly cured, 287 had left us, in various states of improvement, stationary, or had died, and 169 remained in the institution.

"Since that date 167 have been admitted, 175 have been discharged or died, and 161 remain under care at the close of the year. The lowest number during the whole year is that reported at its close; the highest number in the house at one time was 185, or 5 more than its total estimated capacity: the average number for the entire year was nearly 173, and the total number under care during the year was 336.

"Of those discharged during the year 1846, were, cured, 89; much improved, 17; improved, 28; stationary, 27; died, 14. Total, 175."

Resignation of Dr. Warren.—Dr. John C. Warren, whose resignation of his professorship in the Massachusetts Medical College was alluded to last week, delivered his valedictory, as we understand, on Monday. Who will be his successor, in a chair that has been occupied by father and son from the first organization of a medical department in Harvard University, is yet unknown. Rumor speaks of several candidates. Report says that Dr. Warren will continue his connection with the Massachusetts General Hospital.

New York Correspondence.

Eminent Physicians and Surgeons.—Dr. John W. Francis, of New York, has recently delivered a discourse of great interest before the Æsculapian Society, in the University of New York. The subject was the history of eminent physicians and surgeons who have been contemporaneous with the lecturer, either as practitioners or teachers, during the last forty years. He portrayed the character and peculiarities of each of these worthies, graphically describing them physically, intellectually and morally, and awarding to each the merit of whatever he may have contributed towards the profession, either in literature or renown. Bard, Romaine, Rodgers, Mitchill, Seaman, Miller, Kissam, McNeven, Hosack, and others among the departed, severally passed in review before the audience, the characteristics of each being depicted with life-like accuracy, and illustrated by anecdotes at once racy, rich and entertaining. The staid gravity with which some of the most comical incidents were related, and the piquant point with which they were introduced, was at once unique and irresistible. Those who are familiar with the dignified and even venerable appearance of the lecturer, looking full 20 years older than he is, could scarcely prepare themselves for the vivacity and humor with which this biographical discourse was enlivened, and which therefore surprised the audience into frequent bursts of applause.

In thus doing honor to the illustrious dead, Dr. Francis took occasion, incidentally and subordinately, to allude to a few of the living, who by their eminence as teachers, their skill in the art of healing, or their labors in the literature of the profession, have added to the claims of New York. And the discourse concluded by an earnest exhortation and appeal to the stu-

dents to imitate the exemplary excellence of the departed worthies of whom he had spoken, that they might excel the past and passing generation of physicians by their learning and success. A copy of the discourse having been promptly solicited for publication, it will doubtless be found, when it appears, to possess more than mere local interest, its author having already acquired an enviable distinction by his former contributions to both history and biography.

Close of the Lecture Season.—The session of annual lectures in both of the New York Universities being about to close, there appears to be quite an excitement among private teachers in their projected lectures for the ensuing spring and summer. Several distinct courses are determined on by associated gentlemen of the Faculty, besides numerous private teachers and examiners, who advertise for pupils, and some of whom, singly, profess to teach every one of the departments, theoretically, practically and clinically! Verily this is a great country for manufacturing doctors. But still New York is behind some other cities, both in manufactories and in the raw material. We only have two colleges, some 600 students, half a dozen private schools, and three medical periodicals. Philadelphia has three colleges at work all winter, a dozen or more private teachers and summer courses of lectures; and now another chartered college is about to commence a stated spring course, with every prospect of success, for it is said that nearly or quite a thousand students are now in that city. Baltimore has two colleges and a prominent private school, and between them possibly 200 students; and your own city, Boston, notwithstanding the numerous schools in its vicinity, is increasing its class, and multiplying private teachers. And so, North and East, South and West, all the colleges are flourishing, while of the students it may everywhere be said, "still they come!" But there is no danger of being overstocked with doctors, for our country is growing in territory as well as population, faster than all our manufactories can work up the raw material, abundant as is that article. To Iowa and Texas, we are now about to annex, by conquest or purchase, California, New Mexico, and at least a large slice of old Mexico herself; while Oregon is already ours to 54° 40′, if not beyond. Surely, between the Atlantic and the Pacific we shall have field enough, especially as our possessions will soon extend from Cape Horn to "Nova Zembla and the Lord knows where."

To Correspondents.—Dr. Reese's reply to "M." Dr. J. A. Allen's cases of surgical operations under the influence of sulphuric ether, the paper of S. with the specification of Drs. Morton and Jackson in the case of the patented letheon, and Dr. Dixon's observations on stricture of the urethra, have been received.

Married,—At Kalamazoo, Mich., Jonathan Adams Allen, Jr., A.B., M.D., to Miss Mary Ann Marsh.

Died,—At Liberty, Tioga Co., N. Y., Dr. Rienvald, a highly respectable German physician, found dead in a valley, shockingly mangled by a panther while on a professional visit.—At Trenton N. J., Dr. James F. Clark, much lamented.—At Middleboro', Ms., Dr. H D. Hitchcock.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Feb. 27th. 51.—Males, 22—females, 29. Stillborn, 2. Of consumption. 10—lung fever, 7—brain fever, 2—old age, 4—dropsy on the brain, 3—delirium tremens, 1—teething 2—scarlet fever, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—spine disease, 1—infantile, 1—dropsy, 1—apoplexy. 1—inflammation of the brain, 1—disease of kidneys. 1—typhus fever, 6—disease of the liver, 2—croup. 2—tumor. 1—measles, 1—pleurisy, 1—scrofula, 1.

Under 5 years, 19—between 5 and 20 years, 8—between 20 and 40 years, 8—between 40 and 60 years, 9—over 60 years, 7.

Prof. Desmarres's Treatise on Diseases of the Eyes.—In No. 3 of this volume of the Journal, an extract was inserted from a French work, now in process of translation by one of our countrymen, Dr. Clendinen, of Baltimore, who kindly forwarded it to us for that purpose. His own letter accompanying it was not, however, inserted; but, as it contains a reference to his agency in the translation of the work, it is thought advisable, even now, to publish it. On the opposite page, in this number, we also again insert the wood-cut illustration of the deformity of the eye described in the translated extract, which in No. 3 was so disfigured in the printing as to be of little use as an illustration. Subscribers are requested to cut it out of this number and paste it over the one in No. 3. The following is the letter alluded to, addressed to the editor:

"Sir,—I beg leave to offer for insertion in your Journal, the enclosed extract of a translation, upon which I am now engaged. The work of Prof. Desmarres (Demar) is entirely practical, and will give the best elucidation of the ectrotic system of medication, as applicable to acute ophthalmias. I am therefore grateful that he has entrusted to me an onerous, but a useful task, one which from my connection with him, I may possibly be enabled to perform advantageously to readers in the English language. I cull from the earliest products of my labor, a narrative of a rare and interesting case of Epicanthus, and as above stated ask you to insert it."

New York State Lunatic Asylum.—The fourth Annual Report from this institution, under the care of Dr. Brigham, has been received, and from it we gather the following particulars:

"At the beginning of the year 1846, the number of the patients at the Asylum was 285; admitted during the year, 337. Total number in the course of the year, 622. Of this number there have been discharged—recovered, 133; improved, 60; unimproved, 33; died, 22. Total discharges during the year, 248. Remaining in the Asylum, Nov. 20th, 1846, 374.

"In addition to the recoveries of patients, mentioned in the foregoing table, there are now above thirty in the Asylum who are well. Some are waiting for their friends, who have already been notified to come for them, and others remain with us awhile, for fear of becoming again unwell if they return to their homes, where they will be too soon exposed to the exciting causes of the disease from which they have just recovered.

"This number of restored patients is not, however, larger than generally remain here, and who contribute very much to the good order, comfort and welfare of the other patients. We have found among the advantages of a large number of patients at one Institution, is that of always having many who are nearly or quite well, and who constitute a most useful class of assistants. They do us great good by taking an active part in labor, schools, exhibitions and other amusements that engage the attention, and benefit many of the insane, but which cannot be conducted in an interesting manner without the aid of a considerable number of those that are rational."

Willoughby Medical College.—Very complimentary resolves were passed at the Willoughby Medical College, Ohio, by the class, in favor of Dr. A. Trowbridge, the professor of Surgery. He has long been extensively known for his indefatigable exertions, both as an operator and teacher of Surgery.